

D

8 July 1947

Mr. Martin L. Cowen

[Redacted]

Dear Cowen:

It was a great pleasure to receive your nice letter of 2 July and to read all the fine things you said. I hope you did very well at the University of Virginia, and I am sure that you kept up the good qualities of the "Missouri people." Thank you also for your information about [Redacted]. You may be sure we shall give his application a very complete consideration, and, if we can use him, we shall be delighted to do so.

Thank you again for your congratulations and your offer of assistance and believe me,

Sincerely,

a/R & R - out 9 Jul 47
R. H. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

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2 July 1947

Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter
Central Intelligence Group
Washington, D. C.

Dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

A few months ago, when I first heard of your appointment to head the CIG, I planned to write and congratulate you on your success. All of the ex-"Missouri" men at the University of Virginia, where at the time I was in attendance, were quite pleased at the honor bestowed upon you and felt a special pride in the fact that we had been privileged to serve under your command during our tour of duty with the Navy. We all felt, though, that the assignment was nothing more than you deserved and one which you were fully qualified to perform.

Having delayed so long because of duties at the school, I might well have neglected writing this at all had it not been for a law school classmate of mine  One day in class he asked me if the Admiral Hillenkoetter who headed the CIG and the Captain Hillenkoetter who had commanded the Missouri were one and the same person. When I answered that they were, he told me that he had applied for a position with the CIG and that the people who had interviewed him had told him that personal letters written to members of the Group by their acquaintances might be of some assistance. So he asked me if I felt I could write to you, and I replied that I would - for whatever it might be worth.



Again let me offer belated congratulations on your appointment and wish you the best of luck in your work. It may be presumptuous on my part to suggest it, but if I can ever be of any assistance in any way, I am at your service.

Respectfully,

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Martin L. Cowen